



2004 NORTH CENTRAL REGION ENCAMPMENT

Daily Chronicle



Monday, 5 July • Encampment News and Events • Camp Dodge • Johnston, IA

Former Tuskegee Airman Addresses Encampment



CAP Colonel George M. Boyd of Kansas was a featured speaker at the 2004 NCR encampment on Monday.

Attendees at the 2004 North Central Region encampment heard the first-hand recollections of a retired USAF Major and whose long and colorful career including training as part of the legendary 'Tuskegee Airmen' in 1944-45, serving in Greenland as a radar operator during the Korean War and working in an administrative position with the Air Force in Vietnam. In addition, George M. Boyd is a Colonel in the Civil Air Patrol and recently stepped down as Kansas Wing Commander. Colonel Boyd, 78, recounted his experiences and showed slides dating back to his World War II service.

The Colonel praised cadets for their commitment and dedication to Civil Air Patrol. "You're getting some very good training in CAP, and it will follow you the rest of your lives," he said. "There's a lot of responsibility. But this is a stepping stone to other great things, so take advantage of the opportunities." COL Boyd also told his audience that CAP has an important role to play in today's world. The enemy is treacherous, resourceful and innovative, and they will look for the most vulnerable areas to hurt us." He urged CAP members to live up to the motto 'Semper Vigilans' by remaining vigilant and paying attention to everything around them in their day-to-day lives.

During his presentation, the Colonel indicated that many of the individuals shown in his historical slides had passed away. "We're a dying breed -- but I expect that some of you will choose a military career and carry on the tradition," he said. "I hope you have success at encampment and in your career for the rest of your lives."

Encampment Fire Drill Precedes Independence Day Fireworks Display

A surprise fire drill at approximately 2110 hours on Sunday Night sent encampment participants rushing with their blankets into the parking lot surrounding Barracks S-53. The drill was a safety precaution observed by encampment staff. After the appropriate procedures were carried out, the cadets and officers witnessed a vibrant aerial display of fireworks from a nearby location. Encampment Commander MAJ Regena Aye distributed popsicles to appreciative cadets, who have been lacking sugar and caffeine in their diets since the encampment began on 3 July.

Dehydration, Blisters, Fatigue are Most Common Ailments at Encampment

The most common complaints from cadets after three days at the 2004 NCR encampment are not unusual: *Dehydration*, *blisters* and *fatigue*. According to Encampment Medic 1ST LT Doug Bean, two of the three are preventable. "Cadets should drink a minimum of one liter of water an hour in these conditions," said Bean. "If you're thirsty, you're already dehydrated." Bean said good foot care is the key to preventing blisters. While it's too late for cadets to break in their boots, they can help by using moleskin and keeping their feet clean. "Cadets should thoroughly wash and dry their feet, and socks should be changed often," Bean said. As for fatigue, Bean said sleep deficiency unfortunately is a fact of life for active encampment participants. A combination of action-packed days, the change in surroundings and the structured lifestyle can sometimes wear people down. "The best advice I can give is to simply rest whenever you can," he said.

COMMAND VOICE by MAJ Regena Aye, 2004 NCR Encampment Commander

I hope you are enjoying your training so far at encampment. The topic is Duty. I'm sure, by now, you have had someone tell you to "do your duty" or mention the concept of duty to you. Duty can be a difficult concept to grasp because it is abstract in nature. For the third installment in my series of American heroes who teach us something about leadership, I would like to profile an airman who earned the Medal of Honor in Vietnam by going above and beyond the call of duty.

On the night of 24 February 1969, 23-year-old A1C John Levitow was performing his duty as the loadmaster on the AC-47 gunship Spooky 71, which was supporting combat operations around Long Binh, Vietnam. His aircraft was firing thousands of rounds at the enemy and dropping magnesium flares so troops on the ground could see to fight the enemy. Airman Levitow was passing flares to the gunner who then tossed them from the open cargo door, just as they had done on 180 other sorties. Spooky 71 came under ground fire and was hit by a Vietcong mortar round, opening a hole two feet wide in the plane's wing. More than 3,500 pieces of shrapnel hit the fuselage of the aircraft and 40 of them struck Airman Levitow. Even though he was injured, he began moving his wounded comrades to safety. He then noticed an armed 27-pound flare rolling around the aircraft. He knew if it ignited, the intense heat could detonate thousands of rounds of ammunition, causing a massive inferno. Levitow acted without thinking of the risk. Three times he reached for the flare, and missed because the plane was unstable and in a 30-degree bank. Finally, he threw himself on the flare and dragged it to the cargo door, leaving a trail of blood behind him. He heaved the flare outside and it ignited instantly, but the plane was safe. Levitow had lost a lot of blood and the feeling in his right leg, but he continued to help his fellow crewmembers. Later, the crew was able to land the aircraft safely. After recovering from his injuries, Airman Levitow continued to perform his duty and flew 20 more sorties in Vietnam.

After he left the Air Force, this airman, now a Sergeant, continued to do his duty. He became a veteran's representative, helping veterans like himself for more than 20 years. He spoke on behalf of the Medal of Honor society at a variety of events – including a North Central Region Cadet Leadership School at Whiteman AFB, Missouri, that I attended as a cadet. A modest man, he quietly related the events that led to his decoration as a hero. In 1998, a C-17 was named after him – the first aircraft named for an enlisted person. Levitow said, "I'm a firm believer that what I do represents the enlisted corps." He always maintained that people do extraordinary things all the time; he was just lucky and got recognized for it. Levitow saw a General in 1998 after that ceremony and asked him, "General, when can I retire? I've been out of the service since 1970." The general told him that he could never retire, and it is true – he will always be a hero that will influence people.

How does this tie to leadership and you as a cadet in Civil Air Patrol? Your actions at this encampment, and during much of your career, in CAP, represent the corps of cadets and the future of our nation. Make sure that you do your best to make a positive impression on everyone. Duty is a commitment that is made and re-forged daily when you wake up and make a decision to do your best – excellence in all you do. Remember, as a member of CAP, you are never off whether you are in or out of uniform. Your action reflect on the organization and your country. Semper Vigilans, our motto, sums it up – always vigilant.

Editor: CAPT Bruce Tiemann

Assistant Editor/Photographer: C/2nd LT Luke Conrad

2004 NCR Encampment
Civil Air Patrol – USAF Auxiliary

(515) 727-3359
Building S-59

www.ncrencampment.org
Camp Dodge Johnston, IA

